

K. Pescatelli

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FRAGMENT

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Sent from a

GENTLEMAN at NAPLES

TO HIS

FRIEND in LONDON.



L O N D O N:

Printed for R. GRIFFITHS, at the *Dunciad*, in
in *St. Paul's Church-yard*. M DCC LIV.

Molte Illustre Signor mio, &
Padrone Colendissimo.

HÒ inteso che quel Briconcello Guadagni, hà lasciato l'Inghilterra per la Francia, ed è molto biasimato dal nostro amico Monticelli, il quale hà ricevuto ultimamente una lettera dal Sig. Farinelli, o per dir meglio d'un grande uomo senza Coglioni : non ne sò il contenuto.

Hò preso la libertà d'inviarvi un pacchetto, che per accidente trovai pescando di Notte, per il mio divertimento, nel mese d'Aprile passato, vicino ad lido:
Credevo



S I R,

I Find that idle Rascal *Guadagni* has left *England* for *France*, for which our Friend *Monticelli* blames him much. He has lately had a Letter from *Farinelli*, who, it seems, is a great Man, *senza Coglioni*.

I have taken the Liberty to trouble you with a small Packet, which I found by accident, as I was fishing one Night in *April* last, for my Diversion, near

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the

Credevo prima d'aver urtato ad' un pesce; mà fù il detto pacchetto; l'esteriore del quale, fù di corame, contenendo diverse carte tutte bagnate: Le feci subito seccare ad un fuoco acceso dal altra parte della navicella.

Ciò che vi mando è intieramente imperfetto, & ci offusca la mente a tutti. Se, in caso ne trovo qualche altra parte, ve lo manderò, a conditione che mostrarete il tutto a qualche membro della Real Società, acciò sia presentato dinanzi a quel Corpo cruditissimo e così ripieno di sagacità, che certo non potrà fallare di spiegarci il tutto secondo la sua solita sapienza ed incomparabile penetratione.

Fatte i miei complimenti al Sig. Serafini, il Sig. Bugiani, Albuzio, e Maranese, la Signora Bugiani, &c. ma non scordarsi,
la

the Shore. I thought I had struck a Fish; but it proved a Bundle: The Outside was Leather, which contained several Papers, all thoroughly wetted. I had them dried by the Fire at the other End of the Boat.

This I send you is evidently imperfect, and puzzles us all here. If I should find any more Parts, I will transmit them to you, on Condition you shew them to some Member of the Royal Society, to lay before that learned Body, who may, in their wonted Wisdom and Sagacity, find out the Meaning.

I beg my Compliments to Sig. *Seraphini* and Sig. *Albuzio, Bugiani*, and *Maranese*, Signora *Bugiani*; not forgetting

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*la Signora Frasi, e Nicolina Giordani,
che così bene fanno muovere il Ghittarino.*

*Portatevi bene, e conservatemi il, vostro
affetto mentre sono.*

di V. S. molte Illustre,

Affett. & obligat. Servitore,

*Napoli, adi 12.
Giugno, 1753.*

ALESSANDRO PESCATILLO,

[ix]

ting Signora *Frafi*, and *Nicolina Gior-*
dini, who, I dare say, wags her Tail to
some Tune.

I am, S I R,

Your obliged humble Servant,

Naples,
June 12, 1753,

ALEX. PESCATILLO.

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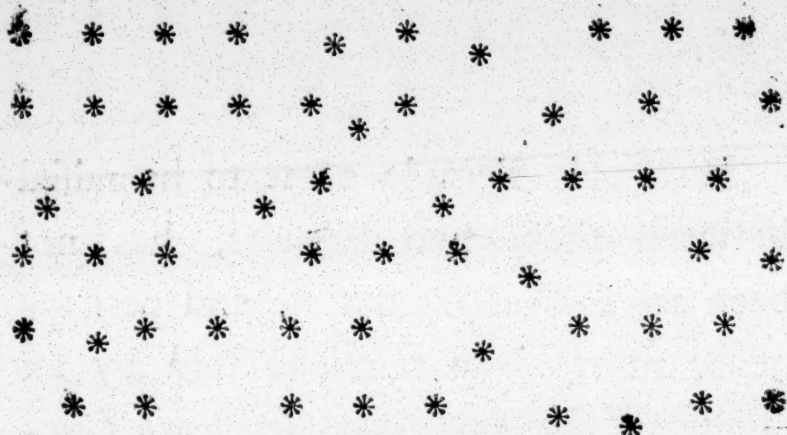
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* * * *, and in the West Part of this great Metropolis, is erected the Temple of the *Scathophagi*. It is situated between two other Buildings: The one, a loathsome Jail, for all such as have committed the most heinous Crimes against the Laws of God and Man: The other, a Building, where those infamous Criminals are tried; from whence they are carried back to the former Place, and thence conveyed in Carts to be hanged on a Gal-
 B lows,

lows, that is always standing about two Miles out of this City, for that Purpose.

How this Temple came to be raised between these two Edifices, has not been as yet accounted for ; and perhaps never may. I was indeed told by an intelligent Person, that, as *Evil Communication corrupts good Manners*, the present Possessors of the Temple, are (excepting a very few) no ways inferior to their Neighbours ; and are *the most pernicious Race of little, odious Vermin, that Nature ever suffered to crawl upon the Surface of the Earth.*

As I stayed some Time in that Country, I took some Pains to get an Insight into the Nature, Customs, Constitution, and Government, of this Society ;

Society ; and found that, contrary to the Disposition of the rest of the human Species, in that Part of the World, their Nature was to delight in Filth and Nastiness of every Kind ; and no one was esteemed among them, but in proportion to the Ordure he dabbled in, and the Excrements he had turned over and examined.

I knew one of these *Literati* carry it so far, as to eat human *Fæces*, and guzzle down human Urine, so often, and in such large Quantities, that the Fumes got at last into his Head, turned his Brain, perverted his Imagination, and, finally, to the great Annoyance of every By-stander, made him squirt out his *Anima Medica* at his Mouth.

I am sometimes inclined to believe this Race of Mortals of a longer Date than is generally thought ; and are indeed, by some, imagined to be descended from the *Scarabæi* (a) *Plutarch* mentions to have been worshipped by the *Ægyptians*, and to which sort of Idols (b) *Moses* alluded, when, speaking of the Gods of *Ægypt*, he terms them *Stercoreos Deos*. But I think they are more probably descended from the *Scathophagi* mentioned by *Aristophanes* ; not that they were, as he says, and the Word implies, T—d Eaters ; but, by a figurative way of speaking, SH—N FELLOWS.

(a) De Is. & Osir.

(b) Deut. xxix. 17.

*Vidistis abominandos & stercoreos
Deos illorum.*

The

The oldest of this Order of Men has been honoured with a Title the Emperor of the Country frequently confers on what they call their Gentry. His Name is *Holtz*, which, in the *Saxon* Language, signifies a Log, or heavy Piece of Timber. Him they have set up at present as their Idol, before whom they bow and prostrate themselves in the most abject Manner; and pay as implicit and slavish an Obedience to his Will, as the Negroes in *America* do to their lowest and meanest Overseer.

This good and learned Man lives to this Day in an hearty old Age, and *his Senses are as lively as ever they were*, and that merely by the Effluvia of the *Aurum ex Stercore*, which he has heaped
together

together to an incredible Mass, by the vast Devastation he has, for upwards of half a Century, made on the human Species.

This Society is governed by a Chief, or Chairman, whom they stile *President*, and is chosen out of eight of the most conspicuously remarkable *sad Fellows* of the whole Body; and *four Scavengers*, who carry off the dirty Work; a *Register*, who sets down, or omits, as he judges proper, all their Transactions; and a *Treasurer*, who has the Key of their Iron Chest, in which is contained this Year two Millions seven hundred and thirty-six Thousand Pounds, Fourteen Shillings, and Six-pence Three-farthings.

These

These Officers are chosen annually. Their *President*, *Treasurer*, and *Register* are generally rechosen every twelve Months for some Years together. The *Scavengers* indeed are elected in turn every Year. The Load of Filth they are obliged to wade through being too much to suffer longer than that Time. There is, however, an Instance of one *Fuscus*, who has stood it voluntarily for three or four Years successively; but it was no more Merit in him, than in a Nightman to empty a Jakes; both leading a Life most *stinkingly depending*.

Their Number is not to exceed Eighty, and they consist now of about Forty. They are supplied with Members from two Colonies, which are
situated

situated conveniently enough, at an equal Distance from this great Metropolis. It is worth remarking, that there is no Darkness throughout the whole Year in these two Colonies; although they do not lie above fifty Miles North-East and North-West from this great City.

The Religion of these Men is Idolatry. They do not believe, as appears plainly from their Lives and Conversation, the Existence of a God; nor indeed in a future State.

They worship *Mammon*; they direct all their Vows and Adorations to him. They believe him to be (in a Phrase of one of their greatest Philosophers) the *Sensorium Commune*, or Soul of the World.

Their

G on the other side maintained that both words were originally formed from *Regnum*; *super regnum*, and *foris regno*; and therefore if any of the Letters should be banished it ought to be I.

“ Apollo said he had a very great
 “ respect for the Authority of his
 “ beloved son Milton, and would take
 “ time to consider the case; in the
 “ mean while people should be at li-
 “ berty to spell those words which way
 “ they liked best.”

When A heard the great opinion that Apollo had of Milton, he pulled out a Petition to be relieved against the incroachment of I, who had forced himself into *Parliament* contrary to the Authority of Milton, who always writes it *Parlament*:

But he was prevailed upon to withdraw his Petition by his adversary, who whispered him that he had better not move that matter for fear least they should be both banished, and the Province assigned to E, who in truth had a better right to it than either. However before he sat down he put in a complaint against U for wrongfully driving him out of the word *Farther* without the least pretense of reason or custom to support his clame.

U being called upon to defend himself said, that it was but a very little while that he had taken possession of that word; that he did it upon the Authority of some celebrated modern Authors, and he hoped their Authority would be allowed by the Court.

“ I

“ I will never, said Apollo with
 “ some indignation, allow of the
 “ Authority of men who write before
 “ they can spell. If you have no
 “ clame to the positive *Far*, what pre-
 “ tence can you have to the compa-
 “ rative *Farther*?”

A Remonstrance from TH, repre-
 senting that S had usurped his place
 in the end of the third person singular
 of verbs.

Apollo declared “ that he thought
 “ this a very great irregularity, as it
 “ addeth very much to that hissing
 “ which is so much complained of
 “ in the language by foreiners; that
 “ he wished Custom would entirely
 “ abrogate it; in the mean time he
 “ ordered TH to keep possession in
 “ all Prayers and solemn acts of
 “ Worship,

"Worship, and censured those
 "young Divines who notwithstanding
 "ing Mr. Addison's reproof will
 "continue to read *pardons* and *ab-*
 "*solves* instead of *pardoneth* and *ab-*
 "*solveth*."

The Petition of E, shewing that
 I had unreasonably thrust himself in-
 to several English words derived from
Clamo, valeo, &c. and praying that
 the said I might be discharged, and
 that he the said E might be added, at
 the end of such words; so that those
 which are now absurdly written
Claim, Prevail, &c. may hereafter be
 spelled, *Clame, Prevale, &c.* He ur-
 ged that I was already dismissed from
Proclamation, Prevalent, &c. and that
 there was the same reason for what
 he desired.

Granted.

A Complaint of ED against T
for justling them out of the ends of
Verbs of the preterperfect Tense,
and of Participles.

The Court had sat late, and
therefore referred this petition to an-
ther Day, and adjourned.

F I N I S.

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